

Larkfield Children's Centre

Day Care of Children

c/o Sacred Heart Primary School
Westmorland Road
Greenock
PA16 0TS

Telephone: 01475715759

Type of inspection:

Unannounced

Completed on:

29 March 2019

Service provided by:

Inverclyde Council

Service provider number:

SP2003000212

Service no:

CS2011280569

About the service

Larkfield Children's Centre is based in a wing of Sacred Heart Primary School in Greenock. The service has sole use of three playrooms, meeting rooms and office space and outdoor play areas.

This service has been registered since 01 April 2011, to provide a care service to a maximum of 50 children:

6 children 0 - under 2 years

20 children 2 - under 3 years

24 children 3 years and over who are not yet attending primary school.

Aims of the service include:

"Aspiring to work in partnership with parents and carers to involve them in their child's learning. Promoting a high quality service that enables each individual to reach their full potential. Providing the best possible support and guidance to all our families within our service.

Providing a safe and secure environment for all our children and families. Providing a stimulated and motivated environment where all our children are engaged in their learning to develop skills for life and work".

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (also known as GIRFEC), Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

What people told us

We spoke to several children and observed their play both indoors and outdoors. Children presented as happy and secure in the company of the adults caring for them and in the warm homely environment. They chose freely from a well resourced indoor and outdoor area and were fully engaged in their learning and play.

We issued 16 Care Standard Questionnaires to the service for parents and received 12 completed care standards questionnaires, 11 of which had added additional comments. These demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with the service. All parents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that 'overall, they were happy with the quality of care their child received in this service'.

Additional comments from parents/carers told us how much they valued the support of a kind, caring staff team. They praised staff on their friendly, approachable manner and on the support they provided to children and families.

They also commented on the good range of experiences and activities provided for their children.

Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self-assessment in advance of the inspection. We looked at their quality assurance paperwork. These demonstrated their priorities for development and how they were monitoring the quality of the provision within the service.

From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

What the service does well

Positive and nurturing relationships were evident throughout the nursery. Staff knew the children and their families well. Children approached staff for help and reassurance throughout each session, which demonstrated that they had developed trusting relationships. We observed children, and their parents, being welcomed and included into the nursery, as staff recognised the importance of working in partnership with parents.

The children's voice was evident throughout nursery, we saw their opinions when choosing what to learn about and to give their views on activities they took part in. Children's interests were quickly captured and extended by staff, for example the sewing activities and sewing table, leading to shared learning experiences. There was clear variation within activities which extended the interests of the group and individuals. This meant children were respected and included as they were active participants in their play and learning. The variety of topics, activities and celebrations such as world book day, fair trade fortnight and Chinese New Year gave children very good learning opportunities.

Health and wellbeing was promoted. Snack and meal times were relaxed, unhurried, sociable events. Staff sat with the children providing them with positive role models and joining in with their conversations. Children were also learning about healthy eating when preparing their own healthy snacks including home made pizza. Independence was promoted at these times along with other tasks such preparing for outdoor play opportunities and toileting.

Staff knew the children and their needs well. Significant events were documented and were kept in the child's personal detail file and any strategies/plans were in place to support individual children.

Loose part materials and resources were available in the indoor and outdoor environments that encouraged children to actively learn, be creative and think critically. resources available to children in the environment gave opportunities for teamwork, problem solving and negotiation.

We saw good opportunities for children to explore and build skills and an awareness of numeracy and literacy for example self registration, menu planning, practising nursery rhymes, height charts, vote counting.

The manager and her staff were professional, enthusiastic and motivated.

Parents told us they had confidence in the quality of the service provided for their children by the staff team.

Parents felt their children were safe and happy and that they benefited from the wide range of play and learning experiences provided. Parents particularly commented positively on the outdoor play experience.

Staff had recently participated in training with a view of improving outcomes for children, this included exploring the Froebel approach. This approach through staff engagement, the physical environment and the freedom of movement helped children to gain confidence, resilience and promotes self-esteem. As well as providing many learning opportunities, it gives children the freedom to explore, using multiple senses, promote health and well-being, confidence and physical and emotional resilience, and it also further develops skills and an awareness of how to care for the natural environment.

What the service could do better

No areas for improvement were identified.

Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at www.careinspectorate.com.

What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

Previous recommendations

Recommendation 1

To plan for access to the outdoors in line with national best practice guidance 'My World Outdoors' so that children of all ages have greater opportunities experience time outdoors and freedom of choice to move between the indoor and outdoor environments.

This recommendation was made on 12 January 2017.

Action taken on previous recommendation

Children had daily opportunities for outdoor play, however the layout and restrictions of the building prevent children from having direct free flow access to the out doors. Future plans for a new building will ensure an environment where children can freely choice where and when to play.

Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
12 Jan 2017	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership Not assessed
2 Feb 2015	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
26 Feb 2013	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
9 Jan 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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